

FACT SHEET

Northwestern States Portland Cement Co. Site Mason City, Iowa



April 2002

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular checkups, called five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites. EPA Region 7 has started its second, five-year review of the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company Site. The site consists of a portion of the Holcim (U.S.) Inc. (formerly Northwestern States Portland Cement Company and Holnam Inc.) cement manufacturing facility located north of Mason City, Iowa, near the intersection of 25th Street and U.S. Highway 65.

The EPA is doing the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment.

Before cleanup, a byproduct of the cement manufacturing process known as cement kiln dust (CKD), which had been disposed on the site, caused ground water in the area and surface water in Calmus Creek to have high alkalinity and total dissolved solids.

Background

The Holcim facility has manufactured cement since 1908. An area referred to as the West Quarry was mined for limestone, a raw material for cement production, until 1950. In 1969, Holcim began using the West Quarry for the disposal of CKD. Disposal of CKD in the West Quarry ceased in 1985 and the open portion of the quarry filled with water.

Under EPA oversight, Holcim installed a system to dewater the West Quarry and treat the collected water. An engineered clay cap was placed over the area of the West Quarry filled with CKD. Access to the area is restricted. Holcim continues to maintain the site.

For More Information

During the review, EPA studies information on the site, and inspects the site to make sure it continues to be safe. We encourage the community to tell us about site conditions or concerns you may have.

Detailed site information can be found at the following locations:

Mason City Public Library 225 2 nd Street SE Mason City, Iowa	EPA Record Center 901 N. 5 th Street Kansas City, Kansas
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If you have questions or need more information on the Northwestern States Portland Cement Co. site or the Five-Year Review process, please contact:

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